

Attorney's ~~socket~~ No.: 09695-004001
Application No. 09/813,445
Amendment dated December 10, 2003
Reply to Office action of March 31, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully requested. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 13, 14, and 16 are patentable over the cited prior art.

In response, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features in Claims 11, 12, and 13. Because Claim 13 is patentable, amended Claim 1 is also patentable. Claims 11-13 have now been canceled.

The patentable Claim 14 has been amended to include all features in the intervening original Claims 1 and 12. Hence, amended Claim 14 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended to include features in patentable Claim 16. Hence, amended Claim 15 is now patentable. Accordingly, Claim 16 has been canceled.

Claims 18-20 have been cancelled to obviate the rejections.

Therefore, all rejections under 35 USC 103(a) have been obviated by the above amendments.

Claims 21-31 have been newly added as dependent claims of amended Claims 14 and 1 and are fully supported by the original specification. Hence, no new matter is added and these new claims are patentable.

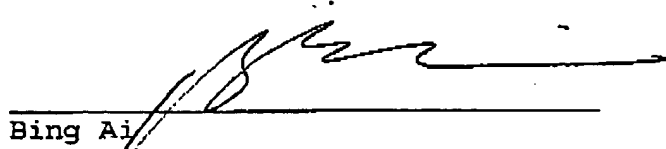
In view of the above, Claims 1-10, 14, 15, 17, and 21-31 are pending and are patentable. Therefore, the application is now in full condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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